



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 024705-107

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8
N.I.H.
12-3-02

In Patent Application of:)

Shinichiro HIROTA et al.)

Serial No.: 09/699,362)

Filed: October 31, 2000)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
PREPARATION OF MOLDED)
GLASS)

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Michael Colaianni

REPLY TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued November 7, 2002, Applicants hereby elect, albeit with traverse, the Group I "invention" which includes claims 1-18, drawn to an apparatus and a method using the apparatus for separating the molded glass article from the mold, classified in class 65, subclass 305.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed because it is believed that the two groups of claims set up by the Examiner are drawn to sufficiently interrelated inventions to warrant examination thereof in a single application. Indeed, the apparatus and method of the Group I "invention" is sufficiently related to the method of the Group II "invention" to warrant examination of all claims in a single application. Thus, a complete search of the method of assembling a molded glass article manufacturing device would necessarily turn

up art relevant with regard to the apparatus and method for separating a molded glass article from the mold.

It is believed that a complete search for both groups of claims would be coextensive such that search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Moreover, examination of the interrelated Group I and II "inventions" would be more efficient than independent examination. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, substantive action on the merits of all of the claims of record is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned so as to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:


E. Joseph Gess
Registration No. 28,510

Post Office Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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